REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 13-19 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 13 being independent claims. Claims 6-12 were previously canceled and Claims 1, 13 and 16 were previously amended.

In The Claims

In the First Office Action, independent Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gallant (US 2002/0131575). Applicants amended Claim 1 to include the "server maintaining for *each of said* at least one of the first devices a *separate* logical device adhering to the first protocol" (emphasis added) limitation, support for which could be found at least in reference to Figure 1, elements 24 and page 10, the last paragraph of the present invention. In contrast, the Examiner set forth that Gallant disclosed a single "logical device" (Fig. 4, Box 16) affiliated with PBX 14.

In the Final Office Action, Examiner maintained the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a), stating that Claim 1 was unpatentable over Gallant in view of Sternagle (US 2002/0184376). Examiner argues that Gallant discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 except maintaining separate logical devices. *See* Final Office Action, p. 3. Examiner alleges that Sternagle teaches a single device with multiple SIP devices within it. However, this is not the equivalent of "the server maintaining for each of said at least one of the first devices a separate logical device adhering to the first protocol" limitation of Claim 1.

Page 10 of the present application in relevant part states:

> In order to reconcile the differences in the master-slave and peer-to-peer modes of handling media flows and properly interface the IP-PBX 10 to the SIP network, the SIP-PBX proxy server 18 maintains a logical IP set 24 for each SIP set 16 on the SIP network that maintains IP based signaling and media connectivity with the IP-PBX 10.

FIG. 1 also shows in detail that there is a separate IP set in the proxy server for each SIP set.

Paragraph 29 of Sternagle in relevant part states:

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SIP signaling router **200** includes a plurality of cluster nodes **202** that perform SIP protocol functions. For example, cluster nodes **202** may comprise SIP proxy servers, SIP redirect servers, or combination proxy/redirect server. An active location server **204** maintains a database of SIP location information and replicates the database to SIP cluster nodes **202** and to a standby location server **206**. Standby location server **206** provides a redundant copy of the SIP location database maintained by active location server **204** in the event of failure of active location server **204**. Management node **208** performs network management functions and other services, such as domain name system (DNS) service, dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) service, and trivial file transfer protocol (TFTP) service.

While it is true that Sternagle discloses a single device with multiple SIP devices within it as disclosed above, this is not the equivalent of "the server maintaining for each of said at least one of the first devices a separate logical device adhering to the first protocol." FIG. 1 of the present application, the relevant discussion pertaining to that figure discussed herein and previously amended Claim 1 reveal that there is a separate IP set in the proxy server for each SIP set not a single device with multiple SIP devices or a SIP signaling router that includes a plurality of cluster nodes that perform SIP protocol functions as discussed in Sternagle. No disclosure in any of the cited references shows a server maintaining for *each* of said at least one of the first devices a *separate* logical device adhering to the first protocol.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 2-5, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

In the Final Office Action, the same citation to Sternagle was provided for rejection of the "maintaining for each of the one or more devices a separate logical device adhering to the first protocol" limitation of Claim 13 as was provided with respect to Claim 1. Claim 13 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons discussed in conjunction with Claim 1.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 14-19, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 13, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for

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the reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 13, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment and response places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact the undersigned at 512-306-8533.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

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